

Remarks

Specification has been amended. Claims 1, 11, 18 and 20 have been amended. Claims 19 and 21 have been cancelled.

Applicant has amended applicant's Abstract of the Disclosure to make the Abstract consistent with applicant's amended independent claim.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 19 and 21 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicant has cancelled claims 19 and 21, thereby obviating the Examiner's rejection.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1, 10-11, 15 and 18-21 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Seong (U.S. Pat. No. 6,785,720) patent in view of the Takayama (U.S. Pat. No. 5,991,842) patent. Applicant has amended applicant's independent claims 1 and 11, and with respect to these claims, as amended, and their respective dependent claims, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a communication control apparatus comprising: a first port that is connected to a first segment of a network, a second part that is connected to a second segment of a network, a CIP header detecting unit configured to detect whether a first isochronous packet received by the first port includes a CIP (common isochronous packet) header conforming to IEC 61883 standard, and a control unit configured to determine whether to disable relaying the first isochronous packet to the second port, if the first isochronous packet includes the CIP header, wherein the control unit enables relaying the first isochronous packet to the second port, if the first isochronous packet includes the CIP header and the CIP header includes a node ID of a permission node, and wherein the control unit disables

relaying the first isochronous packet to the second port and controls to provide a second isochronous packet including dummy data or null data to the second port in lieu of the first isochronous packet, if the first isochronous packet includes the CIP header and the CIP header includes a node ID of a prohibited node. Applicant's independent claim 11 has been similarly amended.

The constructions recited in applicant's amended independent claims 1 and 11 are not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. In particular, the cited Seong and Takayama references fail to teach or suggest disabling relaying the first isochronous packet to the second port and controlling to provide a second isochronous packet including dummy data or null data to the second port in lieu of the first isochronous packet, if the first isochronous packet includes the CIP header and the CIP header includes a node ID of a prohibited node. The Examiner has argued that the Seong patent teaches controlling to provide another isochronous packet to the second port in lieu of the isochronous packet including the CIP header (column 1, lines 24-53; IEEE 1394 transport digital stream) if the control unit determines that relaying the isochronous packet received by the first connection unit to the second connection is disabled if the CIP header includes a node ID of a prohibited node (column 1, lines 46-53: securing connection between devices for transmitting and receiving A/V data; column 5, lines 47-67: OPCR to control the channel; column 5, lines 30-67: server device does not register, server device inactive). The Examiner has acknowledged that the Seong patent does not disclose controlling to provide another isochronous packet including dummy data or null data. However, the Examiner has argued that Seong shows transmitting according to IEEE 1394/IEC 61883 and that Takayama shows in column 9, lines 47-49 that when equipment is under operation, an empty packet is transmitted even if there is no data to be transmitted, in an analogous art for the purpose of

providing digital data transfer, electronic equipment for transferring data using the communication system and an interface control device.

Applicant has reviewed the Seong patent and the Takayama patent and believes that neither Seong nor Takayama teach or suggest controlling to provide a second isochronous packet including dummy data or null data to the second port in lieu of the first isochronous packet, if the first isochronous packet includes the CIP header and the CIP header includes a node ID of a prohibited node. By transmitting the second isochronous packet with the dummy or null data instead of the first isochronous data, as recited in applicant's amended independent claims 1 and 11, it is possible to make the data size of the second isochronous packet the same as the data size of the first isochronous packet so that the communication cycle defined in the IEEE 1394-1995 standard is not disturbed. See, paragraph [0059] of applicant's specification.

The Seong patent discloses a method of connecting server devices through a browser, in which ID information stored in a ROM of a selected server device is compared with a lookup table, and if it is determined that the selected device is registered, output plug control register (OPCR) of the server device is read from the web browser to determine if the state of the server device is active. Col. 5, lines 36-43 and lines 46-62. In Seong, if the ID information of the server device does not match ID information stored in the look up table, the process is terminated. See, Col. 5, lines 44-46. In addition, if it is determined from the OPCR read out from the server device that the server device is inactive, it is checked whether the selection of the server device is to be cancelled, and when the selection is cancelled, the process is terminated. See, FIG. 8; Col. 5, lines 62-67.

Thus, in Seong, if the ID information of the server device indicates that the device is prohibited, i.e. the device is not registered, the connecting process is terminated, and if the OPCR

of the server device indicates that the device is inactive, the connecting process is terminated or returned to the step of reading the OPCR of the server. There is no mention anywhere in Seong of providing a second isochronous packet with dummy data or null data to the second port instead of the first isochronous packet if the first isochronous packet includes a node ID of a prohibited node in the CIP header.

The Takayama patent also fails to teach this feature. In particular, Takayama discloses transmission of a plurality of isochronous packets from a source device to a receiving device and teaches that if there is no data to be transmitted while the equipment is under operation, an empty packet with a packet header and a CIP header is transmitted. Col. 9, lines 33-49. In Takayama, the empty packet includes only a packet header and a CIP header, and there is no mention in Takayama of any dummy or null data being included in the empty packet. Thus, the Takayama patent does not teach or suggest providing a second isochronous packet including dummy data or null data in lieu of the first isochronous data.

In addition, the empty packet in Takayama is provided if there is no data to be transmitted, and not in lieu of any other isochronous packet, e.g. first isochronous packet. Moreover, there is no mention anywhere in Takayama of transmitting another isochronous packet if the CIP header of the first isochronous packet includes a node ID of a prohibited node.

Accordingly, applicant's amended independent claims 1 and 11, each of which recites disabling relaying the first isochronous packet to the second port and providing a second isochronous packet including dummy data or null data to the second port in lieu of the first isochronous packet, if the first isochronous packet includes the CIP header and the CIP header includes a node ID of a prohibited node, and their respective dependent claims, patentably

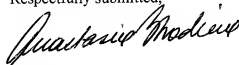
distinguish over the Seong and Takayama patents, taken alone or in combination with one another.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant further notes that applicant has filed concurrently herewith a Request for Telephone Interview asking the Examiner to telephone applicant's undersigned attorney to arrange for a telephone interview in the event the Examiner is not disposed to allow the application.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anastasia Zhadina".

COWAN, LIEBOWITZ & LATMAN, P. C.
1133 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
T (212) 790-9200

Anastasia Zhadina
Reg. No. 48,544
An Attorney of Record